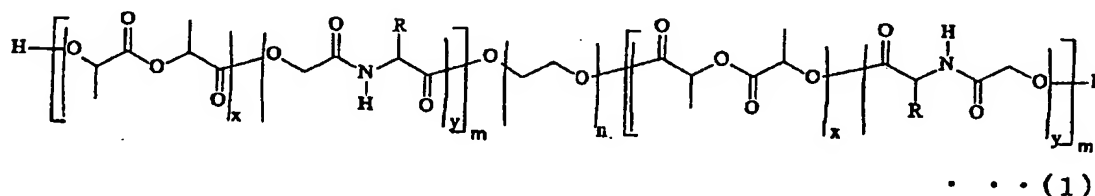


TERTIARY-BLOCK-TRIBLOCK COPOLYMER, PROCESS-METHOD FOR  
PRODUCING THE SAME, AND BIOCOMPATIBLE MATERIAL

According to the present invention, there is also provided a A<sup>1</sup>-B-A<sup>2</sup> triblock copolymer represented by the formula (1):



2

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Application No.:

**Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 with the following amended paragraph:**

Lactide as a polymer constituent in the random copolymer of lactide and depsipeptide that may constitute segments A<sup>1</sup> and A<sup>2</sup>, is an intramolecular cyclic diester compound obtained by dehydrating two molecules of  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acid. Examples of lactide may include intramolecular cyclic diesters of lactic acid, such as D-lactide, L-lactide, and D,L-lactide, and intramolecular cyclic diesters of glycolic acid, such as glycolide. These ~~glycolides~~-lactides provide physical cross-linking points in self-assembly of the triblock copolymers. Since ~~glycolides~~-lactides have various crystallinity, the hydrolyzability and mechanical strength of the triblock copolymer may be controlled by using single glycolide or combining a plurality of ~~glycolides~~-lactides of different crystallinity. In this way, the in vivo structural stability and biostability of the triblock copolymer may be adapted to the intended application. L-lactide is preferred as lactide for its availability.

**Please replace the last paragraph on page 26 with the following amended paragraph:**

Referential Example 1-1

A polylactide-PEG-polylactide A<sup>1</sup>-B-A<sup>2</sup> triblock copolymer was obtained in the same way as in Example-1 1-1, except that the amount of L-lactide was 0.805 g, and depsipeptide was not used. The obtained copolymer was subjected to the various measurements. The results are shown in Table 1.